

Research Communication, Researcher's Role in Society, 3.5 credits

Forskningskommunikation, forskarens roll i samhället, 3.5 hp

Course Code/Codes	15SO014
Subject Area	Sociology
School/equivalent	School of humanities, education, and social science
Valid from	2024-04-24
Approved	2024-04-03
Revised	2026-04-15
Approved by	Head of School
Translation to English, date and signature	2024-03-18 MB

1 Course content

The course deals with the role of research and the researcher in society. The meaning of research communication and its significance for both public debate and the quality of research are discussed. The conditions for carrying out research communication, including the practical and ethical requirements and the tensions between these are also discussed. Opportunities, challenges and various dilemmas related to research communication are addressed. These concern personal issues around being seen in the media and public debate as well as issues of responsibility, security and ethics linked to research communication. The course also addresses the challenges and opportunities that arise from the changing media landscape and the variety of genres and channels of communication that exist.

2 Outcomes

2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Competence and skills

- the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general (outcome 6)

The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

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Knowledge of:

- the role and significance of research communication for society, public debate and a non-academic audience as well as for the quality of research,
- different expectations on the role of the researcher and the need to reach a non-academic audience,
- the diversity of research communication, including problems and opportunities with different approaches and channels,

ability to:

- develop strategies to deal with complexity, uncertainty, knowledge resistance and other dilemmas in research communication, including taking into account issues of gender and ethics.

3 Reading list and other teaching material

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

Massimiano Bucchi & Brian Trench (eds) (2021) *Routledge Handbook of Public Communication of Science and Technology*. (3rd ed) Routledge. (available as an e-book, selected chapters).

Articles and course material about max. 200 pages will be added, which is stated in the study guide no later than 1 week before the start of the course.

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

Lectures, seminars and exercises. During the course, both research staff and expertise from the communication department participate. The doctoral student works with his or her own dissertation material.

5 Examination

The course is assessed through an examination consisting of the components listed below. The individual components are not graded separately but together they provide the basis for assessment and grading.

One written assignment and active participation in mandatory seminars.

6 Grades

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades 'fail' or 'pass' (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake.

If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.

A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

7 Admission to the course

7.1 Admission requirements

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

7.2 Selection

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

Priority will be given to PhD students admitted to a research programme within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university's webpage.

9 Other information

Transitional provisions